UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2443	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/966,733	IEPEREN, TACO VAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George C. Neurauter, Jr.	2443

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 January 2009*.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1,2,5-14,21-26,28-31,34-49,51 and 52* is/are pending in the application.
　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1,2,5-14,21-26,28-31,34-49,51 and 52* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
　　a) ☐ All　b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
　　　1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
　　　2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
　　　3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-2, 5-14, 21-26, 28-31, 34-49, and 51-52 are currently presented and have been examined.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 21 January 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 21 January 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that "Exchange" does not teach or suggest wherein the graphical user interface enables multiple participants to simultaneously input data and simultaneously edit categorized data. The Examiner respectfully does not agree in view of the teachings of "Exchange". "Exchange" expressly discloses that the invention supports "real-time collaboration between" users and that a user can "share data with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations" and can "load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the...multiuser drawing application". Therefore, "Exchange" does disclose these limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 5-14, 21-26, 28-31, 34-49, and 51-52 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts

and Planning".

Regarding claim 1, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a method for creating and managing a shared workspace in a

network environment comprising the steps of:

creating a shared workspace accessible to participants of a scheduled meeting;

categorizing data stored in said shared workspace; and exposing said categorized data

stored in said shared workspace to each participant of said scheduled meeting

accessing said shared workspace through a graphical user interface, said graphical

user interface enabling multiple participants to simultaneously input data into

appropriate categories of said shared workspace and simultaneously edit categorized

data exposed through said graphical user interface. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components", specifically

the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time

collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server

Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service, specifically the

text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL

for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference

through conference access pages. Conference Management Service stores all

scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to create a

persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any additional

information associated with the conference."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing

Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works",

specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard**

You can share data with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste

operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or

display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser drawing

application...NetMeeting 3.01 or later is the recommended client software for Data

Conferencing Provider. It provides the features mentioned previously...")

Regarding claim 2, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein data stored in said shared

workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file

attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing

Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...")

Regarding claim 5, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein changes to categorized data stored

in said shared workspace made by participants are applied to said categorized data

using an optimistic editing model. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server

Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works",

specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard**

You can share data with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste

operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or

display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser drawing application...")

Regarding claim 6, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created

automatically when a new meeting is scheduled. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing

Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service,

specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server

creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access

the conference through conference access pages. Conference Management Service

stores all scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to

create a persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any

additional information associated with the conference.")

Regarding claim 7, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising the step of sending a link to the created shared workspace to each participant of the scheduled meeting. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service", specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access pages."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 8, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 7 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 9, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created for a new meeting in response to user input. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service", specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference

through conference access pages. Conference Management Service stores all

scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to create a

persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any additional

information associated with the conference.")

Regarding claim 10, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising the step of sending a link

to the created shared workspace to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference

Management Service, specifically the text "When you schedule a conference,

Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference

attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access

pages."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection

"Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is

included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 11, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 10 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled

meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components",

specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations

the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 12, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of restricting

access to the categorized data stored in said shared workspace to participants of the

scheduled meeting based on network login information. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to

Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing

Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives

the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference

calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference

definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user

authentication is required.")

Regarding claim 13, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 12 wherein said network login information

includes user login identifications. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000

Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your

Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's

request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference calendar

mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference definition in the

conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication

is required.")

Regarding claim 14, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 13 wherein during creation of said shared

workspace, the user login identifications of participants of said scheduled meeting are

stored with said shared workspace, during access to said shared workspace by a user,

the login identification of said user being compared with the login identifications stored

with said shared workspace. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Security", specifically the text "You can create a public conference that participants can access with the correct password. The conference technology provider uses the password to further limit access...You can create a private conference so that only attendees that you invite can participate. Conference Management Service, the conference technology provider, or both, check the credentials of each participant to see if he or she is authorized to participate in the conference. If Conference Management Service performs the check, it uses IIS to check the user's credentials. Only attendees who have credentials known to IIS can access the conference pages.")

Regarding claim 21, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system for creating and managing a secure shared workspace for a scheduled meeting (see Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", Figure 2.1) comprising:

a workspace server ("Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server"; see also Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service" and Chapter 3, Planning Your Exchange Conferencing Server

Installation", specifically subsection "Server Requirements") executing a server shared

workspace application for creating and managing a shared workspace associated with a

scheduled meeting, data stored in said shared workspace being categorized and being

accessible only to participants of said scheduled meeting; an email server executing a

server email and scheduling application ("Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server" running

"Outlook calendar"; see Chapter 3, Planning Your Exchange Conferencing Server

Installation", specifically subsection "Server Requirements"; and a plurality of

workstations, each of said workstations executing a client email and scheduling

application ("Outlook 2000") and a client shared workspace application ("NetMeeting"),

said client shared workspace application including a graphical user interface to enable

multiple participants of said scheduled meeting to simultaneously access and

simultaneously edit categorized data stored in said shared workspace. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components",

specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote,

real-time collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing

Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service,

specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server

creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access

the conference through conference access pages. Conference Management Service

stores all scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to

create a persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any

additional information associated with the conference."; Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing

Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...NetMeeting 3.01 or later is the recommended client software for

Data Conferencing Provider. It provides the features mentioned previously...")

 Regarding claim 22, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein data stored in said shared

workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file

attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing

Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...")

 Regarding claim 23, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 22 wherein the client shared

workspace application communicates with the client email and scheduling application

executed by each workstation, said client shared workspace application intercepting

meeting requests generated by said client email and scheduling application to

determine whether a shared workspace is to be created for a new meeting being scheduled or whether a shared workspace existing for a scheduled meeting is to be updated. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the text "You can directly reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000 checks the free/busy information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation if the resource is available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 24, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared workspace application instructs the server shared workspace application to create a shared workspace for a new meeting being scheduled automatically. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the text "You can directly reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000 checks the free/busy information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation if the resource is available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 25, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared

workspace application asks the user scheduling the new meeting whether a shared

workspace for the new meeting is to be created and instructs the server shared

workspace application to create a shared workspace for the new meeting when

specified by said user. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server",

subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the

text "You can directly reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000

checks the free/busy information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation

if the resource is available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an

invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is

included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 26, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein the client shared

workspace application attaches a link to the shared workspace to the meeting request

generated by the client email and scheduling application before the meeting request is

sent to the server email and scheduling application. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange

2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your

Organization", specifically the text "When you send an invitation, the conference

resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 28, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein changes to data stored in

said shared workspace are applied using an optimistic editing model. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data

Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can <u>share data</u> with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, <u>multiuser</u> drawing application...")

Regarding claim 29, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein said server shared workspace application restricts access to said shared workspace based on user network login information. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required.")

Claims 30-31 and 34-43 are also rejected since these claims recite substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1-2 and 5-14 respectively.

Claims 44-49 and 51-52 are also rejected since these claims recite substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, and 12.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is

(571)272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on the hours between 8:30am-5:00pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger, can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George C Neurauter, Jr./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2443